

# "Cheaper Food--Higher Wages--Or STRIKE!" Threat Of 3,000,000 Toilers

LABOR has served an impressive warning on the administration in power at Washington. Speaking thru the American Federation of Labor the organized workers of the land, three million strong, demand that the price of food and fuel must come down or wages must go up. Washington has been told by the spokesmen of organized labor that the toilers' pay no longer comes anywhere near meeting his cost of living and that it has already been necessary for labor to accept greatly reduced standards of living. The administration has been told that unless it obtains effective legislation for the reduction of prices before July 1, nation-wide strikes paralyzing every important industry may be expected. This is a notice to the administration to curb the profiteering in the necessities of life and check the rising cost of living. It is a notice to the food profiteers and the big industrial overlords to get down and out or be kicked down and out. Labor is determined to unsaddle the American industrial and political plutocracy. IT HAS SOUNDED ITS WARNING.

This paper has been paid for, if not by you, then by some one who wants you to read it.

No. 243 If No. 244 appears on your address label, your subscription expires next week. Do not fail to renew.

## AMERICAN SOCIALIST

**Liberty Edition**  
For general distribution throughout the land during the week of Independence Day, JULY 4, 1917.

VOL. III. No. 51.

CHICAGO, ILL. 304

CHICAGO, SATURDAY, JUNE 30, 1917.

25 CENTS FOR SIX MONTHS; 50 CENTS PER YEAR; \$1 PER YEAR OUTSIDE UNITED STATES

# What Has Happened To American Democracy? We Ask All The People To Read—And Judge!

Accurate Recital Of Events That Plunged Us Into War Herewith Presented—Read and Consider!

ON THIS one hundred and forty-first anniversary of the Declaration of Independence, The American Socialist lays before the American people the following facts, regarding the method by which we have been forced into the World War, and the causes for which this was done.

Nothing is here alleged except what can be verified by reference to newspaper files and to official governmental documents.

These facts constitute evidence that Woodrow Wilson, now President of the United States, has by the exercise of an autocratic, unconstitutional and inconsistent power, driven us into war against our will, and is now engaged in forcing our young men to cross the seas to fight on foreign soil; in the face of grave constitutional doubts, and by the claim to an authority greater than that enjoyed by the German Kaiser.

These facts further indicate that these things have been done to retain in power the financial autocracy which is now the ruling world power, namely THE HOUSE OF MORGAN. And we ask the President to answer:

"The House of Hohenzollern must fall, in order that the House of Morgan may rule; is this the essence and secret of our war?"

THE AMERICAN SOCIALIST asserts, first; that facts known to the public indicate that in March of 1916, Woodrow Wilson determined that this country must enter into the war; that he communicated this intention to the leaders of Congress; that such a violent opposition was encountered that he was compelled to defer this object for a more convenient season.

Second; that these facts further indicate that during the year intervening between March, 1916 and March 1917 he awaited an occasion to force our entry into the war; that he made repeated pledges to the people, which were all disregarded; that he meanwhile mutilated an official communication of the German Government, accepting half of a conditional pledge and refusing to accept half; and that when the German Government determined to abide by the integrity of its own pledge, and not by his mutilated version, he declared this a sufficient cause of war.

Third; we charge that during the year intervening he accepted renomination for the Presidency on a platform whose central pledge was that he would keep the nation out of war; that he allowed the campaign to be conducted on a straight pledge that he would keep us out of war; that this constituted a compact with the people, on the strength of which he was entrusted for a second term with the Presidential office.

Fourth; we assert that as soon as he was within grasping power of this second term, namely in the closing days of February, 1917, he attempted to force thru Congress, by intimidation and threat, a bill giving him absolute war power, and also a bill which on a later occasion he publicly and solemnly admitted would have forced us into war; this power to be held and exercised by him during nine months of the recess of Congress while the new Congress, not yet summoned to convene, would be held at home powerless to function or to criticize.

Fifth; we charge that having failed in this attempt, he summoned the new Congress to meet on April 2; that within a few hours of this new session he appeared before them and read a statement which amounted to a declaration of war; in the course of which he assumed the power, delegated to Congress alone, of declaring war. By this act he placed Congress in a position where it would either have to comply with his declaration of war, or else by a vote of repudiation practically impeach him, a newly elected President.

Sixth; we assert that the actual base of our entry into the war is not democracy, but finance; that the admitted bankruptcy of Great Britain threatened the collapse of the power of the House of Morgan, the financial agent in this country of the Allied Powers; and the facts indicate that it was in order to place all the resources of this country at the disposal of Morgan that we have entered the war.

Seventh; we charge that the British Foreign Minister, Arthur J. Balfour, on his return to England from this country, stated publicly and solemnly that this country is now in alliance with Great Britain; which statement, if true, is based upon a secret alliance unknown to the Senate and people of the United States, and is therefore in violation of the constitution.

Eighth; we assert that this whole catalog of events constitutes, first, a breach of faith with the American people and secondly an exercise of auto-

## An Appeal To The President

TO Woodrow Wilson, Washington, D. C.  
Sir:

We are grateful for your issuance of the Red, White and Blue Book, giving your version of the chain of events which drew us into the war with Germany. In return we beg to lay before the people and you a recital of this same chain of events as it appears to ourselves. On several occasions you have asked the people to counsel with you. We take you at your word.

The occurrences herein narrated constitute an assumption of autocratic power. Your claim of power was made on the ground that autocratic rule was necessary, first in order to protect the rights of Americans at sea, and later in order to wage a successful war. This plea has done more to strengthen the claims of autocracy abroad than any other single event or victory. Under the profession of a great democratic moral opposition, you have furnished to the upholders of monarchy their supreme argument. It is that according to your own actions, which have always spoken louder than words, a democracy is incapable of waging war for democracy; that a democracy must be converted into an autocracy in order to conduct itself with efficiency in war, or in neutrality. Already your course is cited in the Central Empires as proof that the monarchical form of government is the only safe course for a nation surrounded by foes; and that consequently when the foes are hereditary, a hereditary monarchy must combat them. Is this, Mr. President, "giving aid and comfort to the enemy?" We ask you!

But secondly, we could pass this over, were it evident upon the surface that actual democracy at home will be the result of these maneuvers. Yet the net result of your activities thus far has been that beneath the cover

of a flow of eloquence unparalleled in history there has been fastened upon the American people the rule of a hereditary financial master, the House of Morgan, which is even less intelligent and far less considerate of the rights of its subjects than either the House of Hohenzollern or the House of Hapsburg. You have also largely abrogated the functions of Congress and conferred them upon an irresponsible committee known as the Committee of National Defense, composed of hereditary junkers controlling the great communities of Coal, Steel, Copper, Oil, and Land. Every move made by semi-responsible officers of the Government, such as the Federal Trade Commission and the Secretaries of War and the Navy, in the direction of ending the criminal extortions of these enemies of the people, has been defeated by them.

In these circumstances, those of us who are still Americans at heart as well as with the lungs, and who object to being Prussianized under the guise of defeating Prussianism, ask you seriously to consider your course. The American nation is not yet a subject province of Great Britain by its own volition, neither has it of its own will accepted the ideals of the German war-lovers. Yet both of these parts have been forced upon it. We have the reported word of Arthur James Balfour as authority for the first statement, and a systematic cultivation of hate by our army and our newspapers for the second.

It is questionable whether German Junkerdom with all its stupidity could be as insanely foolish as are the industrial overlords whom you have placed in supreme power over the nation.

It is possible, Mr. President, by threats such as you issued in your Flag Day speech,

to overawe a part of the people for a part of the time. It is possible, by branding as a traitor every person who expresses an opinion differing from your own, and by characterizing as "false and undermining" all professions of loyalty to the Government which do not accept every opinion uttered by you as divinely inspired and as infallibly perfect, to influence a certain portion of the population. These things are possible, but they are not wise.

There is but one way in which this assumption of imperial power can be justified; and that is, having made use of it to restore the American land to the American people, to resign with it this power into their hands. Restore to us the coal, iron, oil, water power, and forests. Restore to us the land; restore to us the railroads; restore to us the control of the great corporations; restore to us democratized the whole fabric of our industrial order, that we may be freed indeed.

We have not forgotten that the claim of immunity from criticism during war, when made by any government, has resulted invariably in the persistent stirring up of war in order to perpetuate such immunity. That claim we are therefore unable to grant, without repudiating the idea of a government of the people, by the people and for the people.

We lay before you these facts; and ask your judgment thereupon. Meanwhile, we place before the people a recital of events since March, 1916, and ask also for their judgment thereupon. For the people are the supreme power, in time of war as in time of peace; and in appealing to them we venture to remind you that we are not your servants, but that you are ours, according to your most solemn oath and covenant when you entered upon your office.

THE AMERICAN SOCIALIST.

because of it, the tumult in the House and Senate increased and spread. Senator Gore in the Senate and Representative McLemore of Texas in the House introduced bills warning Americans to stay off armed merchant ships of belligerent nationalities.

THE MCLEMORE RESOLUTION.  
The McLemore resolution read substantially as follows:

"The House of Representatives requests the President to warn all Americans to refrain from travelling on ships of any or all of the powers now or in the future at war, which ship or ships shall mount guns, whether such gun or guns or other armament be called offensive or defensive. And in case American citizens do travel on such belligerent ships, that they do so at their own risk."

HAD THIS COUNSEL PREVAILED WE WOULD NOT NOW BE AT WAR!

ABSOLUTE COMPLIANCE DEMANDED.  
ON March 1, 1916, President Wilson wrote to Representative Poy, then ranking member of the Foreign Affairs committee, as follows:

"The report that there are divided counsels in Congress in regard to the foreign policy of the Government is being made industriously use of in foreign capitals. I believe these reports to be false, but so long as they are anywhere credited they cannot fail to do the greatest harm and expose the country to the most serious risks."

He therefore urged an early vote on the resolution regarding travel on armed merchantmen, demanding an absolute repudiation of the bill.

This letter is a claim of exemption from criticism, and a demand of absolute obedience to his will, the like of which no European monarch has demanded or secured.

March 2, the papers carry very large headlines, to this effect;

"PRESIDENT USES LASH ON CONGRESS."

"The President will accept from Congress nothing except complete compliance with his plans in regard to the German submarine controversy. He served notice tonight that he will consent to nothing less than a record vote on the anti-administration resolution to warn Americans off armed ships of European belligerents, before he goes on with the German submarine negotiations. No compromise proposition, such as a vote of confidence in the President's foreign policy, will be acceptable."

In the same dispatch, Arthur Sears Henning says; "A majority of members of the house favors some step to warn Americans to keep off armed merchantmen, which German submarines are to sink without warning, beginning today. (March 1, 1916.) A

majority of the house is opposed to giving Wilson a blanket vote of confidence. A number of members of the Rules committee openly state that they will not do Mr. Wilson's bidding. Minority leader Mann and a large number of the republicans intend to vote for warning if it ever comes before the house."

.....  
GORE REVEALS A SECRET.

ON March 2, Senator Gore of Oklahoma flatly stated that Senator Stone had told him that in this conference the President had informed Stone that "war might not be a bad thing for this country."

Stone refused to confirm this, saying, "Whatever the President says to me is something I do not care to repeat. What he says to me is sacred."

On March 3, Senator Gore introduced a resolution warning Americans off belligerent ships, and requiring all Americans to take oath when they got their passports, that they would not travel or accept transportation on an armed belligerent ship, and subjecting them to a penalty of from \$1,000 to \$5,000 if they did so.

Under the gag rule, this resolution was tabled by a vote of 68 to 14, over vigorous protests from the leading Senators. The resolution was not voted down; it was side-stepped, in order to prevent discussion.

Senator Jones of Washington said, "The Senate has been gagged."

Senator Clarke, democrat, said, "I am out of patience with those who are constantly seeking to magnify the importance of utterances of the President; who feel that he having once expressed an opinion, other opinions must instantly be paralyzed."

Senator Borah said, "We denounce Germany because we do not like her system of Government nor her militarism. The senate of the United States, the highest legislative body in the world, was Germanized today."

.....  
PRESIDENT GIVES A PLEDGE.

WHAT terms were made with the senate to gag its discussion of the demands of the administration are not known. But the house of representatives embodied in its resolution a pledge made by the President in order to secure the stopping of this bill. The committee on Rules reported the McLemore resolution without amendment, and with the recommendation that it be laid on the table. But it did this with this clause embodied in its report; that the President had made a pledge that before he "took any steps that might lead the country into war, he would report all facts and circumstances to congress for their consideration." This was on March 3, 1916.

.....  
BRYAN TAKES UP FIGHT.

SO ALARMING was the situation that William Jennings Bryan, only a short time previously secretary of state, came to Washington and opened headquarters there in order to fight the Wilson plan. Bryan is quoted as having said;

"The leaders do not dare bring the matter to a test, and he also urged that the McLemore resolution be passed, or some shorter and more explicit substitute for it. He opened headquarters and rallied all the leading democrats to fight for the curb on Wilson's power, fearing that war would be the prompt result."

On March 8, by a vote of 276 to 142, the House laid on the table the McLemore resolution. Strict application of the gag rule prevented discussion. Both Speaker Clark and Leader Mann agreed that an overwhelming majority of the House favored some kind of action to deter Americans from risking their lives on armed merchant vessels.

.....  
MUNITIONS PROFITS THE REASON.

WHY was this imperative demand made on Congress? Why was it forced to abdicate its own convictions, violate the plain will of the people, as well as all the dictates of common sense, and table the most intelligent resolution offered in congress since the war began?

THE AMERICAN SOCIALIST charges that the Administration was chiefly interested in protecting the safety of British munition shipments by the shield of American lives.

The whip was cracked, and the Gore and McLemore resolutions withdrawn, because Great Britain and the other Allies were using the lives of American men, women and children as a mask and shield for their dynamite and shrapnel.

With that protection withdrawn, the munitions manufacturers would have lost the cheapest and best insurance that could be devised for their wares; and the War Brides would have declined in value.

These shipments were paid for before they left our shores; the risk was assumed by the purchasing government, not by the manufacturers.

We criticize the German government for the destruction of the lives of women and children in this war—and rightly so;

What shall be said of our own government, which would go to war rather than restrain the use of the lives of American men, women and children to mask and protect the shipments of another government? What shall be said of such a government as this?

.....  
This historic record will be continued in next week's issue. Are you interested? Send in your order for a bundle. We must get these facts before the people.

Let us make the week of July First "Subscription Week" for The American Socialist. For every man Registered for War let us register a Reader for Peace. We can Roll the Subscription List up to a Million If we start now, for the Country is Aflame with Eagerness to Know what Socialism is. 50c a year, 25c for six months.



## Hoover's Efforts To Bring Belgian Diet Here Exposed

HERBERT Hoover, picked by President Wilson to be America's food dictator, is trying to foist the Belgian hunger diet on the people of the United States.

The editor of The American Socialist has been asked to join this campaign to direct attention away from the huge profits now being received by the food trusts. Altho not appointed as yet to any official position in the government, Hoover is carrying on this campaign using his own personal stationery.

We herewith publish the letter from Hoover received by the editor of The American Socialist, and the reply sent to Hoover giving the Socialist view of conditions as they exist today. Here is Hoover's letter:

### WOULD SAVE AN IMAGINARY WASTE.

Washington, D. C., June 16, 1917.

J. L. Engdahl, Editor,  
The American Socialist,  
Chicago, Ill.

Dear Sir—I write to ask your special co-operation in an important phase of the work of conserving food for ourselves and our Allies. The plan I now have in mind is designed primarily to reach the church people and the women, but with the help of the press it can be made to cover the whole community.

Under date of June 18 there will be mailed to every minister whose name I can secure a personal letter over my signature asking him to preach upon the subject of Food Conservation on Sunday, July first. In the same letter, I shall express the hope that this day will become known as "Food Saving Day," and that it may be made the purpose and motto of every household in America to Save the Waste and Win the War.

May I have your assistance along the following lines: First, on Monday, June 25 (but not before) and on succeeding days, to announce in your paper the general plan for Food Saving Day, with whatever local arrangements for observing it may be decided upon, and to support it editorially.

"Second, on Monday, July 2 (but not before) and on succeeding days, to carry in display type the motto "Save the Waste and Win the War," to print also notes or abstracts of sermons preached on July 1, and most important of all, to drive home the lessons of food conservation by your own editorial comment.

I should be especially grateful if your influence and that of your paper could be used to enlist civic, fraternal, patriotic, and other organizations in the effort to make Food Saving Day really effective in conserving the food supply for us and for our Allies, and in reducing the cost of living to our own people.

Yours faithfully,  
HERBERT HOOVER.

The above letter was sent to every editor in the United States. The reply of the editor of The American Socialist was as follows:

### OUR EDITOR REPLIES.

Chicago, Ill., June 20, 1917.

Herbert Hoover,  
Washington, D. C.

Dear Sir—I cannot co-operate with you in helping to put the people of the United States on a starvation ration.

I shall, however, do all in my power to give publicity to your statement before the U. S. senate that the food pirates have robbed the American people of \$250,000,000 during the past five months.

Perhaps you have been in Europe so much during the past few months that you do not realize America is already on a Belgian diet.

If there is any more slack in the belt that bounds the American stomach it is being quickly taken up by the continued high cost of living imposed upon us by the food profiteers.

Your campaign cry, "Save the Waste and Win the War," is a tragic joke to the millions who can only cry back, "We have nothing to waste!"

Stop and consider this food question intelligently for just one moment. Don't you think this master holdup of a quarter million dollars, which you admit, has already done more not only to empty the stomachs, but also the pocket books of the American people, than a million sermons and a million columns of newspaper publicity in support of your campaign could possibly do.

Frankly, Mr. Hoover, your letter sounds too much like the empty vapors that usually issue from the publicity departments of huge corporations seeking to begot the minds of the multitudes preparatory to putting something over in their own interests.

Socialist editors and Socialist speakers have given their best efforts to the food problem and will continue to do so.

They will not advocate your policy of hunger, however. They will drive home the horrible facts of things as they are under the present terrible system of extortion and exploitation.

They will show that more than 7,000,000 men registered on June 5, will be barred owing to physical defects, most of these due to undernourishment.

They will show that 350,000,000 acres of farm land now lie waste because the prices paid by the food trust to the producers, the farmers, do not pay for the cultivation of the land that should be at their disposal.

Under the present system of profit and private ownership the more a farmer produces the less he is paid.

Moreover, they will continue to show that the conditions that prevail now are not new. They have prevailed all thru the present administration and many administrations before, both democratic and republican.

They will continue to show that the only remedy lies in the public ownership and control of the entire food industry by the people.

Your letter indicates that you contemplate no radical change. No action has been taken by the present administration during the more than four years it has already been in office, altho it had before it the report and recommendations of the U. S. Commission on Industrial Relations. Action will be forced, however, by the many who are now doing the hungering in spite of the few who are now wallowing in and wasting the wealth they have stolen. The many will force action in spite of all your hypocritical pleas.

Sunday, July 1, Socialists in a thousand cities over the nation will hold mass meetings to advocate the repeal of the conscription act. The speakers at these meetings will also show why the Armours, Swifts, Morriszes, Wilsons, Cudahys and other food dictators should be dethroned.

If the ministers to whom you direct your plea tell the truth from their pulpits Sunday, July 1, they will lose their jobs. Every editor who dares tell the truth in his news or editorial columns will lose his job.

I know, because editors and clergymen are writing me almost daily that they are losing their jobs because they seek to tell the truth about the high cost of living, about war and militarism.

I predict that some Socialist speakers will be arrested Sunday, July 1, for telling about conditions as they exist. The ignorant who have been led astray by your hideous propaganda will charge them with being pro-German, with conspiracy, with sedition, etc., etc.

Is it not true that the profits of Armour & Co. in 1916 were \$20,100,000 compared to \$6,028,197 in 1913 before the war?

Is it not true that the profits of Swift & Co. in 1916 were \$20,465,000 compared to \$9,250,000 in 1913 before the war?

Is it not true that the profits of every other food combination have increased in like proportion?

Knowing these facts, the increasingly high cost of living ceases to be a mystery.

Retail food prices in the United States jumped on an average of 9 per cent between March 15 and April 15, as shown by the administration's own department of labor.

This was the biggest advance during any one month since the beginning of the European war.

In the year ending with April 16 average food prices advanced 32 per cent. Onions during the 2 months went up 179 per cent; potatoes, 146 per cent; beans, 79 per cent; and flour, 72 per cent.

The Annalist shows that the food budget of the average American family has increased 74 per cent in the last two years. Wages in the meantime, even in the well-paid field of organized labor have increased only 9 per cent.

Your hysterical plea, under these circumstances, of "Save the Waste," becomes a hollow mockery. Every intelligent human being in the land knows there is no waste among the great legions of the working ranks of America's citizens. That you do not seem to know it is a horrible indictment of those who are trying to raise you to place and power in the present crisis.

Let the government jail the Armours, Swifts and others of their kind, for treason to the American people, a just charge in face of the unheard of robbery which you have yourself admitted.

Then let the government confiscate the food industries of the nation and operate them for the common good.

Almost immediately, I predict, there will come a great change that will result in enough food being forthcoming to provide plenty and more for all.

This, however, would probably be too much of a revolution to suit the ruling class, ever in Washington or in Wall Street.

I have given space to your letter and this reply in the current issue of our weekly, The American Socialist. If you care to make any additional statement to our quarter million readers, I shall be glad to publish it, reserving the right to answer it.

Very truly yours,  
J. L. ENGDAHL, Editor,  
The American Socialist.

## Friends of Conscription

J. P. MORGAN.

And so you approve of the plan, J. P.  
The plan of conscripting our sons:  
And to you would send them across the sea,  
To tackle the murderous guns.  
Cold steel against tender young flesh, J. P.  
Hard steel against tender young bones:  
And you—approve of the plan, J. P.  
At so many per cent for your loans!

And how goes the battle today, J. P.  
How many thousands were slain?  
How many blind eyes lifted up to the skies  
In pitiful pleading and pain?  
And how many curses of hate, J. P.,  
And how many agonized groans?  
And how many dollars were lent today,  
At how many per cent for the loans?

And the war that comes after the war, J. P.,  
Does it never loom up in your dreams?  
For you know that each debt must be paid,  
J. P.

Though maturity far away seems,  
But what is our life for death, J. P.  
And what are our tears and our moans,  
The grief-stricken mother, the life without light,  
As compared with a great banker's loans?  
LYDIA M. D. O'NEIL

## May Include N. E. C. in Grand Rapids Indictment

According to information received from Grand Rapids, Mich., there will be no hearing Monday, June 25, on the demurrer to the indictment brought against Adolph Gerner, national secretary of the Socialist Party, and 12 others. It is understood also that there will be no trial on this indictment.

Instead, it is declared, the grand jury will be recalled to amend the indictment, with the possibility that new parties may be included. Whether this means that the national executive committee of the party is also to be indicted cannot be learned.

## SUPPRESS ST. LOUIS LABOR FOR QUOTING THE CONSTITUTION.

(By Telegraph)

By WILLIAM M. BRANDT,  
Secretary St. Louis Socialist Party.

St. Louis Labor, our weekly, this week suppressed and confiscated by postmaster because of article containing quotation from constitution of our country on right of people to petition government for redress of grievances. Future issues will not go to the post office.

## CRIME TO STOP SOLDIER WHO IS DANCING INDECENTLY.

(By Oliver C. Wilson,  
Illinois State Secretary.)

The attention of the State organization of Illinois in respect to the defense of those arrested for exercising their constitutional rights centered on three cases at this time. In Rockford some eight comrades are held pending the action of the grand jury on charges of conspiracy. Another comrade held pending the same charge was released June 23.

Pending the action of the grand jury nothing can be done and so far it has been impossible to secure the \$10,000 dollar bond demanded in each case to secure the release of those in jail.

In Peoria John O'Jola has been bound over to await the action of the grand jury on an alleged charge of conspiracy. This comrade is out on bail. He was arrested June 1, and held until June 14, without charges being placed against him and was only released after an attorney was sent from Chicago.

George Royer of Chicago charged with disorderly conduct because he stopped alleged indecent dancing on the part of a soldier at the Riverview picnic will have a jury hearing June 23.

All these cases are being looked after by law firms of Stedman and Soelle of Chicago and Frank Hall of Rockford, and everything is being done to secure fair trials for each and every member of the party now under arrest.

A large number of cases against comrades that failed to register at Rockford on the ground that they are conscientious objectors to military service and war are still pending and the local at Rockford is raising funds to look after their families. No date for hearing these cases has been set as yet.

## Notice To Secretaries

Many local secretaries are not receiving the June issue of "The Bulletin." This is due to the fact that they did not comply with the request contained in the display notice published in the last two issues of "The Bulletin," namely to send in a regular subscription as required by the postal laws. We must have this regular subscription before we are permitted to send "The Bulletin." Party officials who have not sent in a regular subscription will please refer to the last two issues of "The Bulletin" and comply with the request therein in order to be placed on our mailing list. For additional information, write, "The Socialist Party Bulletin," 803 W. Madison St., Chicago, Ill.

## Buy A Liberty Bond

Get a Real one—not the Banker's Kind. The Bonds the Banks are offering you are Slavery Bonds; they bind you to the chariot wheel of Morgan forever.

Send a dime for 100 copies of "Protect Your Rights"

by Ralph Korngold.

June Leaflet of the Socialist Party.

The Real Liberty Bonds

Send 2 dimes for 200, 3 dimes for 300, 75 cts. for one thousand.

Everyone delivered to a neighbor means a Bond to Liberty and Future Peace.

THE SOCIALIST PARTY

803 West Madison Street,  
Chicago, Ill.

# "Treason!" Cry Spurs Fight In Congress To Repeal Draft Act

Cries of "Treason!" only served to spur Representative Mason, Illinois, to greater efforts in his now historic speech in congress, last week, outlining the fight he intends to make to secure the repeal of the conscription law.

Hastings, of Oklahoma, was among those who cried, "Treason!" and brought on a stormy scene surpassed only by the tempest days preceding the declaration of war on Germany. Hastings withdrew his charge following a heated verbal clash.

Every newspaper in the land suppressed what Representative Mason had to say on the repeal of the conscript law. His speech in part was as follows:

### WHAT MASON SAID.

We who voted against conscription believed that we were right and are confirmed in it every day as we hear from the people.

I can not go quite as far as my colleague from Alabama and insist that a man who wishes to amend the law is therefore guilty of treason.

When you passed a law for conscription it became the law, but it became the right and prerogative of every Member of Congress at any time under the Constitution to offer an amendment to that law or a repeal of that law.

That is our constitutional right that I purpose to indulge myself in, believing I represent the people of the State of Illinois.

Therefore I intend, unless someone in the majority very soon offers an amendment to the law directing the President to accept volunteers, to offer that amendment myself, believing, with all due respect to the Executive, that the lawmaking power is here.

### Congress Must Act.

The right under the Constitution to make laws governing the "land and naval forces" of the Government is here and not in the executive department of the Government.

When the people passed that law, known as section 7, which gave the President of the United States "authority" to call for volunteers, it was just as binding upon the Executive as the other sections which gave him "authority" to call for conscription of the people of this country.

And believing that it is the duty of Congress to pass laws in accordance with the Constitution of the United States governing the land and naval forces, I intend to offer an amendment, complying with the Constitution, that the militia of the United States can not and may not be sent out of the country into foreign service.

### Sees Opposition From Press.

I do not expect this to be popular with the press or to receive my immediate approval, but I hope that after we have had a chance to visit our constituents and during this Congress that action will be taken by the people of the United States.

I am aware of the feeling that has grown up in this country among the Congress and the people, that the President, being the Commander in Chief of the Army and Navy, is the sole power to regulate the military branch of our Government.

Such is not the law. By the Constitution of the United States the Congress not only is empowered to raise the Army and the Navy, but section 8, paragraph 14, provides that the Congress shall have power "to make laws and regulations governing the land and naval forces of the United States." Under our oath this is our constitutional duty.

To-day the thing most disturbing the American people is whether it is just or wise to order our militia—our conscripted men—into the trenches of Europe.

### Dodge Big Work.

While I believe 90 per cent of the American people are opposed to forcing our soldiers into the trenches of Europe unless they volunteer for that purpose, Congress has been so busy determining whether there shall be a tax on cigarettes, automobiles, and snuff that not a single rule governing the action of American forces has been offered in Congress upon that subject or recommended by the Executive to Congress.

Since the days of the Constitution legislative powers have been gradually diminished and Executive powers increased. This is not more the fault of the Executive than it is of the legislative branch.

At the time of the passage of the conscription bill I had never, so far as my recollection goes, had my attention called to the question of the power of Congress to use the militia of the United States outside of the United States.

Upon reading, however, a pamphlet addressed to Congress by Mr. Hannis Taylor, a distinguished member of the New York bar, I have made an investigation on my own account, with what time and strength I have had, and I state now to my colleagues that under our Constitution Congress has no power to call the militia of the United States or the militia of the several States, by conscription or otherwise, and order them into service outside of the United States; that, therefore, the conscripted men can not be sent to the aid of our allies by order of the Congress of the United States or by the Commander in Chief, and if attempted it will be a plain and clear violation of the organic law of our Nation.

Fights Violation Of Constitution. Having reached this conclusion, it is clearly my duty to call the attention of my colleagues to that fact—that law—and let them decide whether they would attempt to violate the Constitution or attempt to authorize the Executive to do so.

Section 8, paragraph 15, of the Constitution provides that Congress shall have power to provide for calling forth the militia "to execute the laws of the Union, suppress insurrections, and repel invasions."

law of the Union, suppress insurrections, and repel invasions."

When this clause was originally presented to the Constitutional Convention it gave Congress an added power, which was to "enforce treaties," and for reasons which will be approved by students in examining this question it was unanimously agreed to strike out the power of Congress to use the militia to "enforce treaties," as that might give Congress the power to order the militia into foreign service, and while none of the authorities which I quote call attention to that fact, it is a most significant thing, as you will see.

In other words, "the right to enforce treaties" by the militia of the United States having been stricken out, then under the elementary rule of construction the law writes into the Constitution an affirmative prohibition against using the militia to enforce treaties. Besides, the familiar rule of construction of the Constitution, what is not permitted is prohibited, it is perfectly clear that when the framers of the Constitution used the word "militia" they used it in the sense "which had been affixed to it by those from whom we borrowed it," and those from whom we borrowed it, namely, Great Britain, for centuries held that the militia "is a force for national defense that could be never taken out of the realm for service in foreign countries."

Gentlemen may claim that the proposed conscription act does not purpose to use the militia. But they say that our purpose is to draft from the great body of American citizens who do not compose the militia.

### From 18 to 45 In Militia.

Every able-bodied male citizen between the ages of 18 and 45, except those in the Regular Army, are in the militia, and the militia is by section 17, act of June 3, 1916, divided into three classes, "the National Guard, the Organized Militia, and the unorganized militia." As this act of the last Congress of June 3, 1916, authorizes Congress to draft the National Guard, which is the State militia, gentlemen may claim that because Congress has authorized Congress to draft the National Guard that it relieves the present Congress from the constitutional limitations.

The absurdity of this proposition is so apparent that it answers itself, for if we should allow Congress to authorize some future Congress to pass a law and thereby relieve that law from its constitutional limitations, then there is no provision of the Constitution which could not be avoided and be classified as "a scrap of paper," if one Congress could permit some future Congress to violate the Constitution of the United States.

No better illustration of this can be found than the fact that Attorney General Wickham was asked the question whether the militia could be taken out of the country Congress had before that time and under the act of March 8, 1908, attempted to avoid constitutional limitations by providing that whenever the President calls the militia of any State that that militia should continue to serve "either within or without the territory of the United States," but the Attorney General very properly says, "This statute must be read in view of the constitutional power of Congress," and further, "Congress can not by its own enactment enlarge the power conferred upon it by the Constitution."

### Duty To Criticize President.

Why do we pursue the unconstitutional method of attempting to draft the militia into the service? Why not pursue the constitutional methods and raise your army by volunteers, and then, if your volunteers who are willing to go abroad fail, meet and solve that question when the time comes, under the Constitution we have sworn to uphold. Please understand I do not contend that the Congress of the United States can not call the militia of the States, organized or unorganized, into the service of the United States, but I do insist that if the militia is so called into the service of the United States it can only be used for the three purposes which I have repeatedly set out in this argument.

If I believe that the President's failure to enforce section 7 has done injury to the cause in this war with the Imperial Government of Germany, it is my duty to say so here and now. You can not shift your responsibility as a part of the law-making power by imitating Pontius Pilate and washing your hands and saying, let your Executive do it.

I know we are talking about food control. Let us talk for a moment about food for thought and thought control and the right of the Executive to control legislative thought. There has been a constant letting up of legislative authority and a constant growth of executive authority. It is just as much the fault of the legislative branch as it is of the executive, and it is not more the fault of this present President than it was of those before him, who for years past have constantly encroached upon the legislative power, and to-day when we are in the midst of a war, when we offer you the very best thing that we thought we could, we are met with the cry of treason simply because we want to give you men who will fight instead of violating the Constitution by taking the State militia because the past Congress has authorized us

to violate the clear provisions of the Constitution of the United States.

Tells Of Webster's Anti-Draft Fight.

When the conscription bill of 1814 was before the Congress of the United States Daniel Webster, the great student defender of our Constitution, gave as one of his reasons for opposing conscription the fact that the bill then before Congress, just exactly like the present law, did not prohibit the Congress or the President from sending the militia out of the United States.

The law which we have passed for conscription has the same defect. It has no limitation as to what the Commander in Chief may do with the militia when drafted into the service of the United States, and to paraphrase the statement of Mr. Webster, if he does not send them into England, France, or Italy "it will not be because he is prohibited by any provision of this act."

That fact alone should have caused the defeat of the present conscription act; and while we do not as a Congress limit the use to which this conscripted army could be employed, our great Constitution writes into every statute the living principles of human liberty, and whether we like it or not, it writes into our last conscription act in words of fire that can not be extinguished, "The militia herein conscripted or drafted can not be sent out of the territory of the United States and can only be used to repel invasions, suppress insurrections, and enforce the laws of the Union."

What becomes, gentlemen, of our constitutional requirements as construed by the court that our laws must be uniform? Under the law every man between the ages of 18 and 45 belongs to the Military Establishment of the United States; this is the organized militia, you propose for selective draft, which means drawing by chance. Out of these millions of men you have protected yourself as Members of Congress, and while we have been hearing talk about slackers by your law you provide that three-fifths of the slackers may not even be exposed to the chances of your slacker's draft and hold that two-fifths, those between the ages of 21 and 31, must take their chance.

### Denounces Class Legislation.

It would be just as much within the keeping of the spirit of the Constitution to say that all black men or all yellow men or that all men belonging to certain schools or religion should be selected by draft. I can find no words to express the abhorrence I have for this conscript law, especially when the spirit of the Constitution is so wantonly and ruthlessly violated by class legislation of this sort.

I wish to be understood and I make the statement of my intentions in order that there may be a fair discussion as to the powers of Congress, and as far as possible free from malice or excitement.

Unless there is shortly offered an amendment to the present conscript law which will insert the word "direct" in section 7, so that the President will be induced to call for and accept the volunteers for foreign service, I intend to present that amendment myself.

Second, unless the present conscript law is amended or suggested by some gentleman in the majority upon this question so that the law may comply with the Constitution, and provide that the conscripts shall not be forced against their consent into foreign countries, I intend respectfully to offer that amendment myself.

FAILING IN THAT I INTEND TO OFFER A BILL WHICH WILL REPEAL THE ENTIRE CONSCRIPTION LAW AND LEAVE THIS OR THE NEXT CONGRESS TO CARRY OUT THE WILL OF THE PEOPLE.

Says Truth Is Not Treason.  
The chairman of the committee,

## OUR BOOK SHOP

### Booklets

For Farmers—  
THE FARMER, By Clyde J. Wright—Price 10 cents.

For Union Men—  
THE DOUBLE EDGE OF LABOR'S SWORD—Hillquit—Gompers Debate—Price 25 cts.

For Children—  
NATURE TALKS ON ECONOMICS—Caroline Nelson—Price 10 cents.

For New Members—  
THE TRUTH ABOUT SOCIALISM—Allan L. Benson—Price 25 cents.

## For Children And Socialist Schools

Nature Talks On Economics  
By CAROLINE NELSON  
Ten Cents a Copy—\$1.00 a Dozen  
The Best Thing in the World for Little Students of Socialism and Science—Little Parables of Natural Life which Drive Home the Lessons of Economics.

The Socialist Party,  
803 W. Madison Street,  
Chicago, Illinois.

whose bill we were discussing yesterday, called attention to the fact that the allies had been purchasing in this country, and he called attention to the fact, which is true, that you can buy American wheat and American bread and potatoes cheaper in Great Britain than you can in New York or Chicago, and when we see our people hungry and realize that the allies, thru their agents, have been speculating on the boards of trade, it is not treason to call attention to the fact.

We want our allies to do their "bit," but when we see American flour cheaper in London than it is in Chicago we feel that they are not only "doing their bit," but they are "doing us quite a bit."

And I say it is not treason to call attention to a provision against sending State militia abroad when there are others ready to go; it is not treason to call attention to the fact that our allies, with nearly 2,000,000 men in Great Britain, are insisting and pleading for us to send our boys to the trenches of France, and you know it is a good deal nearer from Dover to Calais than it is from San Francisco to Paris, and travel is a good deal safer for those people. It is only 55 minutes across the English Channel, when it may be two or three weeks or months, aye, it may be eternity, in crossing the Atlantic Ocean.

### Free Speech Still Lives.

Again I say, why pursue unconstitutional methods when there are constitutional methods open before us? Why should we violate the Constitution, by saying that we are going to draft the militia of the United States in violation of the opinion of the Supreme Court of the United States, of the supreme courts of the several States, in violation of the opinion of the Attorney of the United States.

I have had long experience in matters of this kind, and in all these years I have never found a man, either in the House or in the Senate, but that he wanted to do right as God gave him the light to see the right, and he wanted to do the best he could for his country.

This is a friction point where gentlemen disagree, and I thank God upon this floor—in this forum—the right of free speech still exists.

I thank God upon this floor, in my association with you, gentlemen, most of whom are younger than I, you have been willing to grant to me the right of free thought and free speech which you demand for yourselves, and in that freedom lies the safety of our Nation.

## Reduce Living Expenses

By Using This



## "Law And Order" Kaisers In Move To Crush All Liberties

CITY councils and state legislatures are just now vying with each other in passing tyrannical legislation that would make the old Russian autocracy turn with envy in its grave.

What the servile, rubber stamp congress in Washington fails to do or overlooks, the lawmakers in state and city quickly adopt as their own.

Two examples of this grand rush to shelve all vestiges of freedom are found in a statute forced thru the Minnesota legislature by the Minnesota Public Safety Commission, and in an ordinance adopted by the Indianapolis, Ind., City Council.

This year's Independence Day, July 4, can be celebrated in no better way than in studying this pernicious legislation and planning to prevent its adoption in your city or state.

UNDER the provisions of the Minnesota law it becomes practically impossible to raise your voice against the bloody game of war and militarism. A heavy fine and imprisonment is the penalty if you do. Three of the sections in this law are as follows:

Section 1. It shall be unlawful from and after the passage of this act for any person to print, publish or circulate in any manner whatsoever, any book, pamphlet or written or printed matter that advocates or attempts to advocate that men should not enlist in the military or naval forces of the United States or the state of Minnesota.

Section 2. It shall be unlawful for any person in any public place, or at any meeting where more than five persons are assembled, to advocate or teach by word of mouth or otherwise that men should not enlist in the military or naval forces of the United States or the state of Minnesota.

Section 3. It shall be unlawful for any person to teach or advocate by any written or printed matter whatsoever, or by oral speech, that the citizens of this state should not aid or assist the United States in prosecuting or carrying on war with the public enemies of the United States.

SIMILARLY in Indianapolis, Ind., "SILENCE!" becomes the watchword if you would not fall in the hands of the local Kaisers of "law and order." Any criticism of the established order immediately becomes a crime which may set the liberty loving citizen back \$300 to which may be added six months imprisonment. This exhibition of hysteria is in part as follows:

Section 1. It shall be unlawful for any person in the presence or hearing of any other person, to do any act, make any sign or gesture, or say or write any word expressing disrespect or contempt for, defiance of, or disloyalty to, the government of the United States of America.

Section 2. It shall be unlawful for any person, in the presence or hearing of any person, to do any act, make any sign or gesture, or speak or write any scurrilous, indecent, vile or profane word or words concerning the president of the United States of America or, in time of war of the United States with any other country or government, any word or words expressing disrespect or contempt for, defiance of, the president or the army or navy of the United States of America.

Section 3. It shall be unlawful for any person to publish or circulate, or transmit by mail or otherwise, or have in his possession for the purpose of publication, circulation, transmission by mail or otherwise, any written or printed matter, whether of words, signs or pictures, in any form, that expresses disrespect or contempt for, defiance of, or disloyalty to the government of the United States of America.

Section 4. It shall be unlawful, while a state of war exists between the United States of America and any other country, nation or government, for any person to publish, circulate or transmit by mail or otherwise, or have in his possession for the purpose of publishing, circulating or transmitting by mail or otherwise, any written or printed matter, whether word, sign or picture, in any form that expresses disrespect or contempt for, defiance of, the president of the United States of America.

Section 5. It shall be unlawful to incite, urge or advise strikes or disturbances by or among the workmen in any factory, shop or mill or other concern making any munition or munitions for the government of the United States of America or the allies of the United States or in any factory, shop or mill which in time of war has been offered to the service of the United States, or in any factory, shop or mill engaged in the manufacture of food or drug products, in time of war, or in any public utility or public service company, in time of war, where such strike or disturbance might tend to embarrass or interfere in any way with the carrying out of purposes of the United States, or in any way assist or encourage the enemies of the United States.

LET US forego the use of our brains, give up all right to protest or criticize, or let us resolve on this year's Fourth of July to struggle harder than ever to maintain those rights of free speech, free press and free assembly, which our forefathers fought so hard to establish in 1776, the year that saw the adoption of the Declaration of Independence.

It was pointed out in congress only the other day that Abraham Lincoln, with four years of bitter war on his hands, did not ask for a press censorship. He was bitterly criticized by a press which he did not seek to muzzle. Let the nation's congress, its state legislatures and city councils try to pattern a little more after Abraham Lincoln, and not so much after the Kaiser.

**FREE!**

My Copyrighted Book "How to Judge Engines" tells how high-grade semi-diesel engines are made, advantages over cast iron, how common coal oil in WITTE reduces power cost 50 per cent. Write today and get my "How to Make Money" folder. Latest WITTE Engine prices. E. H. Witte.

**WITTE ENGINE WORKS**  
3267 Oakland Ave., Kansas City, Mo.  
3267 Empire Bldg., Pittsburgh, Pa.

**KENTUCKY TOBACCO**  
HOMESPUN Cream of the crop. Rich, ripe natural leaf cured with famous Kentucky way. Aged and mellowed in wooden hogheads; fragrant as a rose. Both smoking and chewing types from mildest to strongest. Free folder.

J. H. WILSON, Box 321-A, MAYFIELD, KY.

**"I ACCUSE"**

You'll find out. Get on the mailing list. Pamphlet is free.

Something must be done.

"It" is coming upon us like a thief in the night. Oh you stop-at-a-time'er, immediate demand'er, reformer, "possibilities" Address Driving, Box 262, Brooklyn, N. Y.

**LOMA-LAND** A high class Piano Solo. We have decided to mail a copy of this piece with our catalogues, to every reader of the American Socialist who will send 5 cents to cover wrapping and postage. Address

WM. H. HAMMACK CO.,  
Hagerstown, Md.

**50 THOUSAND PEOPLE WANTED.** Build and own a city. All work for each, and each for all. Can start at \$3.00 per day. A Revelation, my book explains all. Send 25 cts. coin. No blank answers.

C. H. ANTHONY, 2531 PARK ST.,  
BELLINGHAM, WASH.

**FREE - 6 MONTHS - INVESTING FOR - PROFIT**

A monthly Guide to Money-Making. Tells how \$100 grows to \$2,200—how to get richer quickly and honestly. H. L. BARBER, Pub. 474, 32 W. Jackson Blvd., Chicago.

**WANTED**—Bachelor farmers, with \$150, for co-operative farming here.

H. SAWDON, ST. ELMO, TENN.

**HUSBAND**, ranch, etc., for a wife about 54, good-looking, some means, no dependent children. Address Box 35, Peyton, Colo.

**WAR WITHOUT TAX**

on Food, Labor or Industry

Will you think or pay? The Nation craves all land values—justice demands their use for National Defense—not for private gain. Tax on land values alone with no other taxes whatever will provide entire annual national budget—seven five billion dollars. Will force idle land into use. Increase crops. Stimulate labor. Reduce taxes for 95% of the people. Will not raise prices or reduce production.

Booklet free. NATIONAL SINGLE TAX LEAGUE, Cincinnati. Dept. L.

## Plan Wins!

Our plan to have The American Socialist sold on the streets in a thousand cities, towns and hamlets has been received with enthusiasm everywhere.

OSCAR T. BLOM, Springfield, Mo., orders 100 copies and writes: "I am ordering these for a nephew of mine to try his luck with. I hope he will be able to order 1,000 next week."

C. H. BLOOM, one of our hustlers at Rockford, Ill., writes: "You may send me immediately 25 copies of The American Socialist and I will try to get some more to sell the same in accordance with your plan. Party growing here by leaps and bounds."

W. S. JAMES, of Cleveland, Ohio, also promises to give our plan a trial and says: "We will endeavor to build up a good circulation."

That shows the right spirit!

OUR plan is simply this. Since newspapers sell every other kind of newspapers why not The American Socialist, which is now in great demand?

A responsible comrade can order a bundle of papers at our regular rate, 75 cents per 100, or \$7.50 per 1,000 and have the boys sell them on the streets or from house to house at 2 cents per copy. Let the boy keep one cent a copy. This will leave one cent per copy to buy additional papers. We will send 25 papers FREE as a starter to anyone wishing to give this plan a trial. Send all communications to Street Sales Dept., The American Socialist, 803 W. Madison Street, Chicago, Ill.

YES, we smashed two more records during the current week, one for daily subscription receipts and the other for weekly subscription rates.

Wednesday, June 20, turned up the biggest day in the history of the paper, with receipts for subscriptions totaling \$244.42, compared to \$236.08 on Monday, June 11, the highest preceding day.

The week ending Saturday, June 23, showed total receipts for subs amounting to \$119.31 compared to the record set by the preceding week, ending Saturday, June 16, of an even \$1,000.

We are climbing higher and higher. There is no rest for the soldier who has enlisted for the social revolution.

Get the subs and win the Henry Dubbs!

## From The Firing Line

"The American Socialist can become the greatest publication in America with well directed efforts upon the part of Socialists," writes Scott Wilkins, of Spokane, Wash. Comrade Wilkins is holding regular meetings thruout Ohio, making record breaking literature sales and gathering in the subs for The American Socialist.

"Wish to congratulate you on the make-up of The American Socialist. It is without doubt the best weekly Socialist paper published and still getting better. Wish it could be published twice weekly instead of weekly."—M. E. Kuhn, Chambersburg, Pa.

"The bright rays of Socialism are beginning to radiate in Kansas City, Mo., more than ever," and to prove it G. W. Kuntz sends in a list of eight Comrades. Comrade A. Bruce of Pomeroy, Ohio, sends in another sub, "Who wishes to read the truth, the whole truth, and nothing but the truth, so help him Comrades. Pomeroy has been very slow to take to Socialism but this war craze has changed the minds of many."

One of our new recruits at Kokomo, Ind., sends in a club of four. Regarding the petitions to congress to get a referendum on the draft law, he writes, "No trouble whatever to get signatures, republicans, democrats, prohibitionists, and of course all true Socialists sign without a word." He estimates the people of Kokomo are 5 to one against war.

"World Socialism is knocking at our door," and C. E. Wharton, of Kenton, O., subscribes for The American Socialist to read all about it.

"Everybody in this community is interested in the socialist message of salvation as never before. Now is the time to 'do our bit'." is the report from Comrade A. W. Lappart, of Loomis, Neb., that accompanies a list of 13 subs.

The day's mail brings a letter and two subs from Silem Springs, Ark. The Comrades here have both been democrats all our lives. But we confess we were wrong. We have changed to Socialist."

Financial Secretary G. J. Peck, of Local Davenport, Ia., sends in a list of 13 and orders \$5 worth of sub cards. He hopes this is satisfactory for the time being.

"Yours for Socialism in our Time," is the slogan of County Organizer W. H. Tilley, of Ness County, Kans., and he does his bit by sending in a list of 34 subs.

Ell Kligenamith is our leading recruiting officer at Jeannette, Pa., and he sends in a list of 25 volunteer subs.

"This is my answer to Czar-rules in America," says our recruiting officer in Vinton, Iowa, in sending in a list of 20. "I expect to speak even louder next time. There are only two on this list who have ever voted the Socialist ticket, but they are all favorable now."

F. B. Hamilton, of Piqua, Ohio, showed the May 20th issue of The American Socialist to a few friends and immediately rounded up a club of four. Local patriots had a big demonstration recently but not one militancy was secured as result. Now they are volunteering for The American Socialist's army.

Comrade Otto Ebeling, of Reazbury, Mass., sends in a list of 14 as a protest against the Prussianizing of America.

Comrade E. L. Osgood, of Los Angeles, Cal., is opposed to militarism and he sends in a list of 30 to show it.

Comrade L. W. Pearson, of Roanoke, Va., sends "the greatest paper that ever existed," to a "new recruit to our great movement."

The Marxian Y. P. S. L. of Milwaukee recently celebrated its second anniversary. It was the day its activities were the former and expects soon to be stronger than ever.

**ILLEGALITY DOESN'T MATTER**

"We don't care whether they are or not," declared Police Commissioner R. J. Allerdice, of Pittsburgh, Pa., when he was asked if he didn't know that it is illegal to make arrests, without warrants, as he did in the case of the raid on the Socialist headquarters recently.

The cases against W. E. McElwain, Charles Sollenmann, J. T. Clutter, David Ponorow, Martin Webber, Joseph Smith, A. E. Woodruff and Jane W. Tait, arrested in the raid of May 22, have been dismissed.

Walter G. Hodge and Edward C. Mueller, members of the North Side, Pittsburgh, Circle, Y. P. S. L., with Joseph R. Mountain, all members of the party, are being held over to the November federal grand jury in \$1,000 bail each.

## 1776-Have We Made Good?-1917

By IRWIN ST. JOHN TUCKER.

OUR GOVERNMENT Censorship has taken steps to suppress all documents, movies, and literature criticizing our government or the governments of our allies.

This makes it necessary for us to call attention to two very questionable documents, which according to these rules should be suppressed. One of them in particular should be at once seized and destroyed, because it might hurt the feelings of our great ally, the King of England. It is wide-spread and far scattered. Most school books contain it; every history refers to it. Almanacs, reference books of all kinds, contain its ringing words, which reflect most seriously upon the English king. It ought to be suppressed.

We refer to the Declaration of Independence. The other is an even worse attack upon our own nation. It reveals facts that ought to be kept from public notice. It makes assertions and allegations that might tend to weaken the blind, unreasoning loyalty of the nation to politicians who happen for the moment to occupy the seat of authority. It ought to be suppressed.

We refer to the report of the Industrial Relations Commission.

FOR, embarked upon a "War for Democracy" our eyes turn backward to that great palladium of all modern democracies, the Declaration of Independence.

Within the century and a half since that immortal document was written, changes—many changes—have occurred in the land which wrote it, and which thru those ringing words declared itself to be free.

Of late years the Declaration of Independence has ceased to be a popular document. Formerly it was read aloud at all holidays and picnics on the Fourth of July. But a Fourth of July might not be a safe and sane holiday if people meditated too frequently upon our national ideals, and upon the great difference between our ideals and the facts.

We who are to free the world—are we free?

We who are to make the world safe for democracy—are we a democracy?

These questions bear the asking; they cry aloud for answer. Let us take that revered but forgotten document, the Declaration of Independence, and read it side by side with that recent stock-taking of national affairs, the Industrial Relations Commission Report.

Let us see what that Commission found to exist, after one hundred and forty-one years of liberty and democracy.

Then perhaps we shall see a new meaning in those ancient words: "WITH WHAT JUDGMENT THOU JUDGEST, THOU SHALT BE JUDGED!"

Thus says the Declaration:

**EQUALITY**

We hold these truths to be self-evident; that all men are created equal.

**HUMAN RIGHTS**

That they are endowed by their Creator with certain inalienable rights.

That among these rights are life,

liberty and the

pursuit of happiness.

Where the individual or corporate employer owns and controls the community in which the ordinary man lives, the education of his children, the character and prices of his food, clothing and house, his own actions, speech and opinions, and in some cases even his religion, are controlled and determined, insofar as the interest of the employer make it desirable for him to exercise such control. Such conditions are established and maintained not only thru the dictation of all working conditions by the employer, but by his usurpation or control of the functions and machinery of political government in such communities.

**Pursuit Of Happiness**

The crux of the question is: "Have the workers received a fair share of the enormous increase in wealth which has taken place in this country, during this period, largely as a result of their labors?" The reply is emphatically "No!"

The pressure of economic conditions has an enormous influence in producing certain types of crime. Insanitary working and housing conditions, unemployment, wages inadequate to maintain a human standard of living, inevitably produce the crushed and distorted bodies and minds from which the army of crime is recruited. The crime problem is not one merely of the police courts; it leads to the broader problems of public sanitation, education, home care, a living wage, and industrial democracy.

**ITS OVERTHROW**

There now exist within the body of our Republic, industrial communities which are virtually principalities, oppressive to those dependent on them and a dreadful menace to the peace and welfare of our nation.

In modern corporate business, the actions of officials are governed not by their personal intentions, but by inexorable demands for interest and dividends; they ignore, as if they did not exist, the men and women whose labor drives the whole mechanism of business.

**NEED FOR REVOLUTION**

People talk about agitators, but the only real agitator is injustice, and the only way is to correct the injustice and allay the agitation.

In popular governments, evils are often borne with stolid patience until a culminating point is reached, when the people burst into sudden frenzy and redress their grievances by violent and extreme measures, and even tear down the fabric of government itself.

Looking back over the industrial history of the last quarter century, the industrial disputes which have attracted the attention of the country and have been accompanied by bloodshed and violence, have been revolutions against industrial oppression, and not mere strikes for the improvement of working conditions.

It is axiomatic that a government which can be maintained only by the suppression of criticism should not be maintained.

SUCH were the dreams, and such the high intent of the fathers of this republic. To such a vision have the millions of immigrants who sought our shores been led. What have they found?

We who are setting forth to democratize the government of the world—what of ourselves?

In the next four issues of The American Socialist, the great parallel will be continued. It will be shown how, charge for charge and phrase for phrase, the wording of the Declaration of Independence, which cried for a new order and a new government, rings true today. The need is as great, the necessity as pressing.

That new Independence can be established in one way, and one way only; that is thru the establishment of Socialism.

The new dreams of the world can be fulfilled in one way only; and that is thru Socialism. We must commence that new order NOW.

Let us begin! The nightmare has oppressed us now long enough; blood has drenched the world too long.

LET US BEGIN!

## An Answer To Challenge Issued By The President

NOTE.—One of the principal speeches made at the annual gathering of Chicago Socialists, Sunday, June 17, attended this year by more than 50,000 persons, was the stirring address by Seymour Steidman, former Socialist member of the Illinois legislature. Steidman answers the challenge to the Socialist Party made by President Wilson. An extract from his speech is as follows:

ONCE every year we gather here for our annual celebration of the object being interested in the political movement of the American working people that is national in its politics and international in its objects.

This year we assemble under the restraints imposed by war. We must be cautious and guarded in the language we use to avoid any possibility of offending the government. The traditions of this country for over a hundred years have sanctified the freedom of the press and the freedom of speech. Therefore it becomes exceedingly difficult for us in the short space of a few weeks to conform to the unwelcome precepts of lese majeste.

There are imposed upon each of you unusual burdens. One of them is to avoid any conduct which will give the ruling class of this country the delightful privilege of charging you with conspiracy, of searching your homes without a warrant and of taking you in custody for the purpose of asking questions and delivering to you a lecture upon patriotism. Another is the necessity of securing new members to the party. This is an easy task at the present time. Thousands are coming to us because of our high ideals and our opposition to war. These new members are far from appreciating the fact that WAR is the logical outgrowth of the Capitalist System, which is always the subject of our attack. It therefore becomes your imperative duty to see that literature is placed in their hands explaining to them the fundamental reason for poverty, idleness, billions, and war, and in this you are training them, as you must train yourselves, to the demands of the future. These new members are far from appreciating the fact that WAR is the logical outgrowth of the Capitalist System, which is always the subject of our attack. It therefore becomes your imperative duty to see that literature is placed in their hands explaining to them the fundamental reason for poverty, idleness, billions, and war, and in this you are training them, as you must train yourselves, to the demands of the future.

Concluding his Flag Day Speech the President says, "We be to the man or group of men that seeks to stand in our way in this day of high resolution, when every principle we hold dearest is to be vindicated and made secure for the salvation of nations." When the Czar declared war against the Germans the context of his proclamation was substantially the same as this. When England demanded that Belgium should resist to the utmost, she did so in words almost as melodramatic as these. The peace advocates of Russia, England and the United States are pro-German; the peace advocates of Germany have been denounced as pro-Ally; the peace advocates of Bulgaria, Austria and Germany are denounced as pro-Ally. In every country the Socialists who have emphasized the necessity for peace and opposition to the ruling class have been denounced as enemies of their country and the friend of the countries making war upon them. And this is so because the working classes of every country are expected to give their last drop of blood to sustain their ruling classes, and they refuse to openly welcome the purpose of the workers thruout the world to establish a Social Democracy—the rule of the workers, the triumph of collectivism and the final end of all class domination.

The President has challenged the forces in this country that are making for peace. The administration has refused passports to the representatives of the Socialist movement. The administration has sent an ultra-conservative to Russia in the name of New Freedom and has presumed to select for the Socialists a representative. People who understand democracy will not misunderstand the policy of a government which pre-

sumes to select a representative for the Socialist Party, which, by parity of reason, would permit the Socialists to select the representative of the Democratic or Republican Party. It is a new kind of democracy thru which one party selects the representatives of another.

The President has challenged the Socialist movement and the peace advocates. It is for us to answer with diligence and activity, which can be best manifested by securing more and more members to the party; more and more subscribers to the party publications, and a liberal contribution and support for the defense of those whom the government desires to suppress and jail.

**Some Comfort**

By J. L. HICKS.

Having divided food to the last morsel with "our allies" across the Atlantic, it is comforting to read the following, which I copy verbatim from the London Times of May 22, 1917:

"It is, indeed, commonly asserted by the buyers of some parts of London that many tons of meat brought into the markets are being destroyed because buyers cannot be found for it at the prices demanded by the wholesalers."

**I Want YOU to Get a Ford Car FREE**

DON'T SEND ME A CENT! JUST YOU NAME! Let me give you one of my brand new, never-used, 1917 latest model Ford Touring Cars. I have given away a lot of them. You might as well have one, too.

**I Have Given Cars to One Hundred People**

I have given nice new cars to one hundred people. Not one of them paid me a nickel. They were actually amazed to think how little they did for the cars they got. You can get one of the letters of thanks I get from them.

**I Have One For YOU**

Will You Take It?

I want you to have a car. Do you want it? It's all up to you. You sit around and twiddle your thumbs while your friends are all out riding. Get a car free and join the happy throng. Let me give you one today and get full particulars. You'd just as well be riding in your own car as not.

**This Big FREE Book Tells All About It**

I want you to have a copy of my nice new, two-color, free book. It tells you all about it. Just how to proceed to get your Ford Car free. It also contains enthusiastic letters from many of my Ford users.

**Send For Your Copy At Once**

Write to me today and let me send you this book. It will open your eyes as to how easy it is to get an automobile.

**You Can Be the Proud Owner of a Ford**

Don't envy your friends. Have your own car. It's all up to you. You sit around and twiddle your thumbs while your friends are all out riding. Get a car free and join the happy throng. Let me give you one today and get full particulars. You'd just as well be riding in your own car as not.

**Let Me Hear From You Today—NOW!**

I have given cars to old men, young men, blind men, women, ministers, business men, farmers, merchants—even to boys and girls. You can get one, too. Let me give you one today. Fill out the coupon below and send it today. This is your BIG CHANCE!

W. W. RHODES, Manager

**RHODES AUTO CLUB**

300 Capital Bldg., Topeka, Kan.

Send me your new free book and full particulars as to how I can get a new Ford Touring Car free.

Name.....

Address.....

City.....

State.....

Zip.....

Phone.....

Post Office.....

County.....

Country.....

Day.....

Month.....

Year.....

Signature.....

Print Name.....

Print Address.....

Print City.....

Print State.....

Print Zip.....

Print Phone.....

Print Post Office.....

Print County.....

Print Country.....

Print Day.....

Print Month.....

Print Year.....

Print Signature.....

Print Print Name.....

Print Print Address.....

Print Print City.....

Print Print State.....

Print Print Zip.....

Print Print Phone.....

Print Print Post Office.....

Print Print County.....

Print Print Country.....

Print Print Day.....



# Daniel Webster Defeated Attempt To Conscript Army During War Of 1812

Great statesmen in the past history of the United States, whose names are now written big in our memories, have been unalterably opposed to conscription. Foremost among these have been Daniel Webster, whose speech against conscription in congress, December 9, 1814, is a classic to be read and studied and passed on this year on Independence Day, when the forcing of our youth into this causeless war is the thing uppermost in the minds of the American people. Webster points out the unconstitutionality of the proposed act and it was his unalterable opposition in 1814 that prevented the passage of a conscription law. We republish Webster's speech in this Liberty Edition of The American Socialist as part of the campaign to repeal the conscription law already forced upon us. Here it is:

**T**HIS bill... is an attempt to exercise the power of forcing the free men of this country into the ranks of the army... The services of the men to be raised under this act are not limited to those cases in which alone this government is entitled to the aid of the militia of the States. These cases are particularly stated in the constitution: "To repel invasion, suppress insurrection, or execute the laws." But this bill has no limitation in this respect... That measures of this nature should be debated at all in the councils of a free government is a cause of dismay. The question is nothing less than whether the most essential rights of personal liberty shall be surrendered, and despotism embraced in its worst form...

The administration asserts the right to fill the ranks... by compulsion. Persons thus taken by force to be put into an army may be compelled to serve there during the war... they may be put on any service at home or abroad for defense or for invasion, according to the will and pleasure of the government. This power does not grow out of the invasion of the country, or even out of the state of war...

Is this consistent with the character of a free government? Is this the real character of our constitution? No, Sir, indeed it is not. The constitution is libelled, foully libelled. The people of this country have not established for themselves such a fabric of despotism. They

have not purchased at a vast expense of their own treasures and their own blood a Magna Charta to be slaves. Where is it written in the constitution, in what article or section is it contained that you may take children from their parents... compel them to fight the battles of any war in which the follies or the wickedness of the government may engage? Under what concealment has this power been hidden which now for the first time comes forth, with a tremendous and baleful aspect to trample down and destroy the dearest rights of personal liberty?

Who will show me any constitutional injunction which makes it a duty of the American people to surrender everything valuable in life, and even life itself, not when safety of the country and its liberty may demand the sacrifice, but whenever the purposes of an ambitious and mischievous government may require it? Sir, I almost disdain to go to quotations and references to prove such an abominable doctrine has no foundation in the constitution of the country. It is enough to know that that instrument was intended as a basis of a free government, and that the power contended for is incompatible with any notion of personal liberty... The supporters of the measure before us act on the opposite principle... It is their pleasing duty to free us of the delusion which we have fondly cherished, that we are the subjects of a mild, free and limited government and to demonstrate by a regular change of premises and conclusions that government possesses over us a power more tyrannical, more arbitrary, more dangerous, more allied to blood and murder, more full of every form of mischief, more productive of every sort of misery, than has been exercised by any civilized government, with one exception, in modern times... What would have been more absurd than for this constitution to have said that to secure great blessings of liberty it gave to government an uncontrolled power of military conscription?

Sir, in granting Congress the power to raise armies, the people have granted all the means... which are consistent with the liberty and security of the people themselves, and they have granted no others... A free government with arbitrary means to administer it is a contradiction, a free government without adequate provisions for personal security is an absurdity, a free government with an uncontrolled power of military conscription is a solecism at once the most ridiculous and abominable that ever entered into the head of man.

Sir, I invite the supporters of the measures before you to look to their actual operation. Who shall describe the anguish and distress which they will spread over those hills and valleys, where men have heretofore been accustomed to labor and to rest in security and happiness. Anticipate the scene,

when the class shall assemble... to throw the dice for blood... when a group of wives and sisters shall gather around the theatre of this horrible lottery as if the strokes of death were to fall from heaven before their eyes... and in the majority of cases, sir, it will be the stroke of death. Under present prospects of a continuance of the war, not one-half of them on whom your conscription shall fall will ever return to tell the tale of their sufferings. They will perish of disease and pestilence, or they will leave their homes to whitening fields beyond the frontier... Into the paradise of domestic life you enter, not, indeed, by temptation and sorcery, but by open force and violence... nor is it for the defense of his own house and home that he who is subject to military draft is to perform the task allotted to him...

I would ask whether the supporters of these measures have well weighed the difficulties of their undertaking, have they considered whether it will be

easy to execute laws which bear such marked despotism on their front, and which will be so productive of every sort of misery in their execution? For one, sir, I hesitate not to say that they cannot be executed. I express the sentiments here as I shall express them to my constituents. Both they and myself live under a constitution which teaches us that "the doctrine of non-resistance against arbitrary power and oppression is absurd, slavish and destructive of the good and happiness of mankind." With the same earnestness I shall exhort them to exercise their unquestionable right of providing for the security of their liberty.

In my opinion, the sentiments of the free population of this country are greatly mistaken here. The nation is not yet in a temper to submit to conscription... You may talk to them as much as you please of the victory and glory to be attained... They will hold those objects in light estimation if the means be a forced military service... They

will not be charmed out of the remembrance of their substantial interests and true happiness. Similar pretenses, they know, are the graves in which the liberties of other nations have been buried, and they will take warning.

Laws, sir, of this nature can create nothing but opposition. If you scatter them abroad like the fabled serpent's teeth, they will spring up into armed men. A military force cannot be raised, in this manner, but by the means of a military force. If the administration has found that it cannot form an army without conscription, it will find, if it adventure on these experiments, that it cannot enforce conscription without an army. The government was not constituted for such purposes. Framed in the spirit of liberty and the love of peace it has no powers to render it able to enforce such laws. The attempt, if we rashly make it, will fail, and, having already thrown away our peace, we may thereby throw away our government.

## What Excuse Do You Offer For Not Joining Our Movement?

DEAR READER:—If you are not a member of the Socialist Party, what excuse can you offer for it? You have followed our Movement enough to know that it is the only organized force that will make the world "safe for democracy." You have learned, by this time, that the blustering of the present administration about "world democracy" are empty pretensions—a hollow mockery.

Enough voters were deceived last fall by the slogan "Praise God, He Kept Us Out Of War" to elect Wilson. Perhaps you are one of them. If you voted for Wilson because "he kept you out of war," you believed he would continue to do so.

But instead of keeping us out of war, with the aid of the rubber stamp Congress, he got us into war, and made us a nation of conscripts. We are chained to a military machine that is intended to make the Kaiser's look like a cheap imitation.

WE ARE told the world must be made "safe for democracy." But the men in which President Wilson and Congress made us a nation of conscripts, violates every principle of democracy.

To the Socialists this was no surprise. We have contended all along that the democratic and republican parties alike represent the interest of the industrial overlords. If you had any doubt about this in the past, it should be sufficiently clear to you now. If it is not, what further proof do you want?

If it is clear to you, what are you going to do about it? Are you satisfied to be made a slave to a military machine to be sent out as cannon meat? Are you willing that a war debt running into the billions of dollars shall be saddled on this and future generations?

LOOK HERE! These figures may impress upon you the burden that stares you in the face. They come from a capitalist source that favors the War and Conscription. Germany began this war \$80 in debt for every citizen. At the end of last year it rose to \$390.

France had a war debt of \$160 per citizen at the beginning of the war and at the end of last year it mounted to \$455.

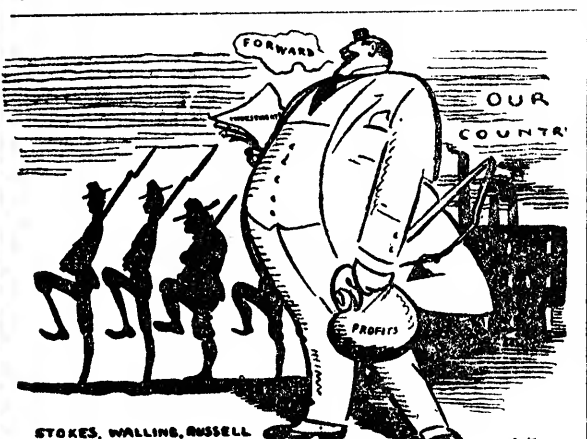
And it all comes out of the wealth that labor creates.

The source from which the above figures come, boasts that our per capita debt is only \$35. But that's only the beginning. Per capita soldier we have the most expensive army in the world. If the five million men contemplated are raised, the load will be staggering.

Secretary McAdoo says the war will cost us Ten Billion dollars per year for the first two years. This is \$100 per year for every man, woman and child. It means \$500 per year per family. What it will cost after that we do not know.

BUT THIS is only putting the war into dollars and cents. It is leaving out of consideration entirely the human suffering, the killed and crippled. And will we have a world "safe for democracy" if the Kaiser, Roosevelt's closest rival, is licked? Well, read what Congressman Hilliard has to say:

"Men engaged in inflaming the minds of the people that they may consume their own wicked purposes direct their batteries against the Kaiser. They feign not to know and would have the people never learn that the Kaiser, wicked and tyrannical as he may be, is after all only the instrument in his part of the world through which the moneyed oligarchy plies its evil trade. Germany will not be free when it has



Stokes, Walling, Russell. By Art. Young in The Masses. Soldiers of the Common Good.

## Help Circulate This Issue!

We want to make this Liberty Edition of The American Socialist reach the multitudes. Its circulation should be a record breaker. We are breaking records almost every day now and we want to smash all records for special editions.

Help circulate this edition by sending in your order to The American Socialist, 803 W. Madison St., Chicago, Ill. Prices: for bundles, 75 cents per 100; \$7.50 per 1,000; copies will be addressed and mailed directly by The American Socialist to lists of names at the rate of one cent a copy.

only thrown over the Kaiser. It will be free when it is able to cast out the money changers. So with the other powers of Europe which are now enthralled under the yoke of monarchical government; likewise our own country.

"Kings may be tyrannical or benevolent but they are retained, fostered, kept alive, that wicked and designing men behind the scenes may visit tax burdens upon us and reap a rich collection of spoils. This country of ours, unhampered with kings, yielding obedience only to the principles of democracy, rich in resources, proud of its history, has to-day within its borders thousands of starving people and millions of other people who can barely obtain the necessities of life. These conditions, Mr. Chairman, are not due to the crowned heads of Europe, the English King, the Russian Czar, or the German Kaiser. They are due, and wholly due, to the damnable conspiracy of the consolidated money power of the world, and which in this country has its lair in Wall Street. And, Mr. Chairman, so far as this country was concerned, the war was fostered by this very oligarchy which, grown rich thru the suffering, privation, and needs of the peoples of Europe, and fearing that out of the result of that war their investments in allies securities, aggregating billions, would be endangered and knowing that at its conclusion the profits they had enjoyed during its progress would cease, this very oligarchy, thru as wicked a purpose as ever prompted man to lie in wait in the dark to cut the throat of his fellow man, urged this country to enter a war, with the commencement of which it had no part, that their profits—and oh, such conscienceless profits—might continue for another term of years.

"I warn them to beware. This country and its institutions are in no danger from any source except from the wickedness of certain interests within, and my faith is that while these interests are powerful for the moment, that in comparison with all the people they are so few in number that the righteous will rise in their might and drive into the sea those who have brought about in a peace-loving Republic the horrors and fears of war, and will not permit their sons to be slaughtered that the money power of the world may realize its hopes."

IT IS July to rant and storm against this imminent danger. The situation cannot be changed by mere words. It must be changed by action. That action must express itself in an organized movement to wrest the power of Government from Wall Street by use of the ballot. The Socialist Party is the organization dedicated to that purpose. Every day of this chaos adds new and enlightened recruits to our ranks. Indications point to an increase of at least 10,000 for the month of June, over May.

The American Socialist is eclipsing all records. Four thousand, four hundred and seventy-seven subscribers were added in one week.

The Socialist Party is in the ascendency. Our work is bearing fruit. In this grave crisis that is transforming this nation into an armed military camp, the Socialist Party needs you and you need the Socialist Party.

THE Socialist Press needs you and you need the Socialist Press to give you the truth that the capitalist press keeps from you.

If you are not a member of the Socialist Party but in sympathy with our cause, join without delay. Every delay is that much time lost.

Build up the Party, build up the Socialist Press. We are marching on with the conviction that we are soon to inherit the earth.

With all of the wheat imported, bread prices in Belgium are 60 per cent less than in New York City, while prices in France are from 30 to 40 per cent lower, with producers realizing the same profits. The American profiteers score again.



George III.—The fellow who laughs last laughs best. What were you fighting me about anyway?

## Is Balfour A Liar? Or Is There A Secret Alliance?

That a perpetual alliance between Great Britain and the United States has been concluded, which will last forever, was the statement of Arthur James Balfour, English secretary of Foreign Affairs, made at a dinner in his honor given in London on June 20. Mr. Balfour made this claim in his "account of his stewardship" on his return from the British embassy to this country.

Balfour was hissed and jeered off the platform of Cooper Union Hall, in New York, when he attempted to speak. He appeared only under heavy police guard when he passed thru the streets of that city. His projected visit to Chicago was cancelled, not because of the indifference of the Mayor of Chicago, but because of fears that such a trip would give the American people an opportunity to demonstrate their real feelings toward Balfour. Despite this, he says, "Our alliance is based on a great moral consideration."

An alliance cannot be concluded without the knowledge and consent of the Senate. The Senate was not allowed to meet Balfour, except at an afternoon tea given by the Secretary of State. So indignant were the Senators at such treatment that only six out of the ninety-six attended this tea.

In spite of this fact, in spite of the fact that no one at Washington or elsewhere outside of the administration knew anything about an alliance; in spite of the fact that such an alliance would undoubtedly have been rejected most emphatically, had it been offered to the vote of the people; Balfour, for many years head of the British Government and now its most responsible member except Lloyd George, announces that there is an alliance.

Either Balfour lies, or the President and Lansing have led the people without their knowledge and consent into an alliance which apparently makes us to all intents and purposes a part of the British Empire.

On June 17, the British flag and the American flag together were carried up Bunker Hill from which the British flag had been driven in 1776.

Was Benedict Arnold right? Was George Washington wrong? Speak up, Mr. President. The Secretary of State has muzzled every employee of the Department of State except himself; and he never gives out an intelligible statement without contradicting it the same afternoon. We look to you.

IS THERE A SECRET TREATY WITH GREAT BRITAIN? IS BALFOUR A LIAR OR NOT?

Art Young, the famous Socialist cartoonist, writes: "The American Socialist is big with good live reading matter."

## AMERICAN SOCIALIST

Official Organ of the Socialist Party of the United States.

J. L. ENGBAHL, Editor

Entered as second-class matter, July 21, 1914, at the post-office at Chicago, Ill., under the Act of March 3, 1879.

Published every Saturday by the Socialist Party National Office, 803 W. Madison St., Chicago, Ill.

SINGLE SUBSCRIPTIONS.—Fifty cents a year. Twenty-five cents for six months.

BUNDLE RATES.—Bundle Rates One Year to one address: 4 copies \$1.50; 8 copies, \$3.00; 10 copies, \$3.50; 25 copies, \$9.00; 50 copies, \$18.75; 100 copies, \$35.00. Bundle Rates of Any Issue: 1,000, \$7.50; 500, \$3.75; 200, \$1.50; 100, 75 cents.

SATURDAY, JUNE 30, 1917.

## Wrong Again

America's jingo press is again indulging in another fit of hysteria over the International Socialist Peace Conference, this time over the fact that two Socialists from the United States have arrived at Stockholm.

These Socialists, Max Goldfarb, one of the editors of the New York Jewish Daily Forward, and Boris Reinstein, of Buffalo, have not been authorized to represent the American Socialist Party. They are no doubt just stopping off at Stockholm on their way to Russia where they are planning to live and enjoy the freedom that prevails under the new Russia. The hysterical press is trying to make much of the fact that these Socialists are of Russian birth and Jewish, carrying their stories of misrepresentation under headlines as follows: "U. S. Delegates at Stockholm All Alien Born."

According to reports received in this country, Goldfarb, like Socialists from many other countries, appeared before the Stockholm committee of the International Socialist Bureau. He is reported to have said in part:

"The governments have forced upon the masses this terrible war. Let the masses force upon the governments such an international arrangement as would make a repetition of this carnage impossible. Only a congress which would represent the great masses of the people in general and the organized workers in particular will be powerful enough to do away with militarism, nationalism and secret diplomacy. The war is fought by the masses and it is the sacred and inviolable right of the masses to conclude peace."

Efforts are still being made to get the state de-

partment to issue passports to the American Socialist delegates, Morris Hillquit, Algernon Lee and Victor L. Berger, to attend the International Socialist Peace Conference called by the Council of Soldiers' and Workmen's Delegates of Russia.

A statement signed by a group of prominent Socialists and radicals has been sent to the state department pointing out that a refusal to allow the delegates to attend would create unnecessary friction between the United States and Russia; that the conference will not be pro-German in its complexion, and, finally, that democracy demands entire freedom of discussion, if the best results are to be obtained.

## Hitting Sacred Profits

Washington is wallowing in the various phases of the food problem and questions involving the other necessities of life.

"Sacred profits", which may extend to the last penny in the pockets of the producing class, have given way to "fair profits", a questionable quantity.

At first the government only threatened to provide a "fair profit" on all the coal, iron, wood, copper, oil, food, clothing, etc., furnished the army and navy. The private citizen was to remain the object of exploitation and plunder by the legalized highwaymen.

This was supposed to be a radical war measure and came after the country had been stirred up over the huge graft the profiteers were planning to make on war contracts. We cited one instance last week where it was proposed to pay the steel trust \$95 a ton for steel that could be purchased for \$31 a ton in 1910. It is now proposed to pay only \$55.50 a ton, leaving a "fair profit."

Threatening strikes and food riots, however, seem to be pushing the government a little farther ahead. It threatens to pool the transportation, food producing and mining interests of the country, operate them under government control, and return a "fair profit" to the owners. This is supposed to be an answer to the cry for help of the private citizen.

The hysterical jingo press is already heralding this action as "the most radical legislation ever proposed in the country along the line of state Socialism."

In the meantime The American Socialist continues its unwavering fight for the complete socialization and democratic management of all the great industries concerned with the production, transportation, storage, and the marketing of food and the other necessities of life. This means complete public ownership with no profits instead of a hazy governmental regulation with questionable "fair profits" as is now proposed.

Our proposition eliminates all robbery of the producer and consumer. The government's present position retains the robbery but seeks to make it respectable.

The July Leaflet "Why You Should Fight," by Irwin Tucker, is now ready. We want a man or woman, boy or girl, in every precinct of every county to distribute these to EVERY VOTER. Whether a party member or not, WRAP YOUR NAME AROUND A DIME, SEND IT IN, and get 100 copies. Send two dimes, get two hundred. Send seventy-five cents and get ONE THOUSAND. Be a Light-bearer! Address The National Office, Socialist Party, 803 W. Madison St., Chicago, Ill.